

DPD-4133-59

17 June 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHIEF, DEVELOPMENTS BRANCH, DP DIVISION

SUBJECT : SYSTEM VII

REFERENCE : DD/P-4-6111, Paragraph (a), dated 9 June 1959

1. Reference (a) posed several questions and statements relative to the System VII program. This memorandum will attempt to clarify the misapprehensions expressed therein.

(a) The original estimated price for System VII was \$117,000. The actual cost will be about \$126,000, or less than 8 per cent more than estimated. This overrun was due almost entirely to the use of contractor's tech. reps. for 23 man weeks during flight test instead of the originally estimated 7 man weeks.

(b) The estimated delivery date for the System when the contract was awarded was 1 March 1959. Actually, the System was ready for delivery on 4 March 1959 but was not loaded aboard an aircraft until about 7 March 1959. It is true that flight testing took longer than estimated but this was due to the high signal density encountered in the test site area, and not to deficiencies in the equipment. Also, the noise reduction program for the aircraft took longer than estimated.

(c) The System has proven to be reliable. In fact, during the entire flight test period it was removed from the aircraft only several times, a remarkable achievement for a system so complex and composed of so many pieces. Practically all failures encountered to date have been in the Ampex recording equipment and not in the boxes built and supplied by H&B.

(d) Within DPD, technical responsibility for the development was clearly assigned after about the first month. This occurred at about the same time as the DPD reorganization. The development was closely monitored and the contractor made to " toe the line " to insure DPD getting a satisfactory product, which from the results of the 10 June 1959 effort verify that this has been achieved.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

(e) Flight testing of [redacted] was adequate to insure that the System is capable of receiving and recording the desired telemetry signal. However, some additional flight testing would have resulted in further debugging, but pressure to get the System in the field in time [redacted] resulted in early deployment of the System.

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(f) From the demonstrated capability of the System, it appears that the contractor has performed in a very satisfactory manner under this contract; superior to most other contractors that could be named.

[redacted]  
Development Officer

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DPD:DD/P [redacted] :mncb

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